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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re U.S. patent application of :  
Ian Trevor DAMPNEY, and : Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned  
John Ewant Alfred WICKHAM :  
Serial No.: Not yet assigned ) Examiner: Not yet assigned  
Filing Date: August 2, 2001 ) Attorney Docket: 000026.00030  
Int'l Appln. No. PCT/GB00/00325 ) MCG/mas  
Int'l. Filing Date: 4 February 2000 )  
For: **ACTUATING AND LOCKING** )  
**MECHANISM FOR A** )  
**SURGICAL TOOL** )

#A  
For Amended  
a

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner of Patents  
Box PCT  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to an examination on the merits of the above-referenced patent application, please amend this application as follows.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 10, 16, and 28.

Please amend claims 3-4, 6-8, 14, 17, 20, 23, and 26-27 as follows:

3. (Amended) An actuating mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the cage is adapted such at inward radial movement of the cage causes the actuating device to be placed into its actuated position.

4. (Amended) An actuating mechanism according claim 1, wherein the actuating mechanism further comprises a locking mechanism for locking the actuating device in its actuated position.